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30 JUN 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Intelligence and Research
Department of State

SUBJECT: Freds L. LAUNAGS - Potential Defector

1. Reference is made to your memorandum dated 18 February 1966, subject as above, to our CSCI-316/01060-66 dated 11 March 1966, same subject, and to your memorandum dated 7 June 1966, same subject.

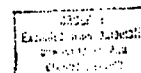
2. We have just been advised that LAUNAGS has been involved in an incident in Montreal, Canada, which may bear on his intent to repatriate to Latvia. On 17 June 1966 a source of this Agency learned that LAUNAGS had telephoned from Montreal to a friend in New York stating his intention to return to Latvia and requesting that the friend find and forward his U.S. naturalization papers which he had left behind. We were later advised by Canadian authorities that LAUNAGS had been arrested in Montreal after incurring a hotel bill of \$350 which he was unable to pay. Since he gave clear indication of mental aberration, the charges against him were dropped on 20 June and he was deported to New York City under escort of a Canadian officer. We have as yet no official report on his arrest and no firm indication of any concrete steps on LAUNAGS' part to repatriate to Latvia. However, this latest incident again makes clear that LAUNAGS is not in a condition to appreciate the consequences of his acts, and in this connection we refer to the incoherent and irrational content of his letters to the President of the United States mentioned in our earlier memorandum.

3. This Agency is making arrangements to contact LAUNAGS in order to provide assistance in

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helping him to solve his personal problems. In view of his mental condition, however, we have no assurance that our efforts will be successful.

4. With reference to LAUNAGS' letter to your Department to the effect that he desires to visit his sister in Australia, we would assume that if a passport should be issued to him for this purpose there might be an obligation to advise appropriate Australian authorities of his intent and of the background of this case.

5. The following comments are keyed to the specific questions raised in your memorandum of 7 June 1966:

(1) Revelation of information available to LAUNAGS would not endanger the lives of our intelligence personnel but would expose identities of individuals currently engaged in clandestine intelligence operations. It would also subject the United States Government to potential embarrassment by exposure of certain intelligence and propaganda operations.

(2) LAUNAGS is in no condition, psychologically or physiologically, to withstand attempts by Soviet authorities to force him to reveal everything that he remembers about U.S. intelligence activities and personnel.

(3) Issuance of a passport valid for all travel except to Communist-controlled areas would not materially reduce the risk of defection, since LAUNAGS could readily establish contact with Soviet authorities in Europe or elsewhere outside the United States (e.g., Vienna) and be provided with documentation for onward travel to the USSR.

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(4) The passage of time has lessened the sensitivity of LAUNAGS' knowledge to some degree. However, the judgment of potential damage provided above is based on our best estimate of LAUNAGS' present memory.

(5) The nature of the information relating to national security which LAUNAGS would reveal to the Soviets could be disclosed to a judge in camera. It could not be exposed in open court proceedings without revealing the very information which should be concealed.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PLANS.

JAMES ANGLETON

CSCI-516/05252-66

cc: Department of State
Attention: Miss Frances G. Knight
Director, Passport Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Secret Service
Immigration and Naturalization Service

SB/O/AC: ☐ ajc X4205 24 June 66

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1 - RID/AN/SB, Pls classify LAUNAGS, ☐ ☐
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REF: DST-14507, 7 June 66
DST-14029, 18 Feb 66

Para. 5 (5) coord in substance with ☐ OGC

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